



NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

Today, the House passed the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which I worked on for months together with my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee. The bill supports our troops and raises their pay 2.4%, protects our national security against today's threats, protects the Shipyard from BRAC, and at long last ensures that activated Guard and Reserve service members receive the post-deployment benefits they deserve.

I secured provisions in the bill [to address perfluorinated chemical \(PFC\) contamination](#) around military bases. Community members who live near contaminated sites like Pease deserve answers about how they and their children may be affected by perfluorinated chemicals, and guidance on what steps they can and should take to protect their health.

For a full report on my work on this year's NDAA and more information about the bill, [click here](#).

Fighting back against the Senate health bill

It was a joy to spend time yesterday with 8-year-old Parker and 11-year-old Sadie from New Hampshire, together with their families and doctors. Parker and Sadie are bold, brave, and effective advocates for Medicaid, which allows them to thrive despite health challenges we wish no child ever had to face. I promised them I will keep fighting against the Senate health care bill's devastating Medicaid cuts and share their important stories with my colleagues.



This week's latest changes to the Senate health care repeal bill would make a heartless plan even more extreme. The Cruz amendment would allow insurance companies to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions and to push bare-bones plans, bringing us back to the days when Americans experiencing a health crisis too often found out that care wasn't covered in the moment that they needed it most.

New Hampshire families don't want to face impossible decisions between lifesaving procedures and crippling debt. They don't want insurance that covers less, and higher deductibles that force them to pay more out-of-pocket.

And Granite Staters won't be fooled by this bill's bait-and-switch approach to the opioid crisis, which woefully fails to justify taking coverage from millions who are struggling with substance use disorder. In fact, the Senate bill would send our communities backward in their fight against the heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid crisis, kicking millions off Medicaid and private insurance while allowing insurance companies to weaken or eliminate coverage of behavioral health and substance use treatment.

A new and improved G.I. Bill

Yesterday I was proud to co-introduce the most significant expansion of GI Bill education benefits in a decade. We can never fully repay veterans and their families for their service, but expanding access to education is a good way to show our gratitude.

I am especially glad this bill includes a provision I introduced earlier this year to ensure that deployed National Guard and Reserve members will qualify for the same educational benefits as those they served alongside once they return home.

Portsmouth City Councilor Josh Denton, a former Army Officer, said: "After returning from Iraq, I relied on the Post 9-11 GI Bill to attend UNH Law the very first semester it went into effect in 2009. It is great that this bill will modernize and expand the benefits that got me where I am today to returning service members, including National Guard members and Reservists."

Defending net neutrality

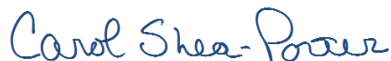
Earlier this week I joined my colleague, Congressman Keith Ellison, to co-introduce the Open Internet Act, a bill to protect net neutrality. Net neutrality the simple principle that lawful content on the Internet should be equally accessible to everyone, and that Internet service providers should not be allowed to discriminate against some content providers.

Without the guarantee of net neutrality, the Internet superhighway's rules of the road will favor big tech businesses over newer startups. The Internet has allowed the proud tradition of American ingenuity and entrepreneurship to reach every corner of the globe. Its openness has enabled a new generation of New Hampshire innovators to turn a bright idea and a laptop into a business. The last thing our economy needs is for these engines of growth to be slowed.

Closing thoughts

This week, I was pleased that the House moved the ball forward on two crucial priorities we can all agree on: improving treatment for children with cancer and increasing seniors' access to hearing aids. The FDA reauthorization bill that included those priorities also calls for action on the outrageous and skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs, and I hope we can take meaningful action to address this crisis with the urgency it deserves.

Best wishes,



Carol

This week's press releases

- [Shea-Porter Bills, Amendments Passed in House NDAA](#)
- [Shea-Porter Secures Legislation to Address Pease Groundwater Contamination](#)
- [Shea-Porter Co-Introduces Landmark New G.I. Bill](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Revised Senate Health Care Repeal Bill](#)
- [Shea-Porter Applauds Passage of Childhood Cancer Treatment, Affordable Hearing Aid Priorities in Bipartisan Bill](#)
- [Rep. Shea-Porter Statement on the Introduction of H.R. 3175, the Online Privacy Act](#)

ICYMI

- [In Congress, growing calls to revoke Jared Kushner's security clearance](#)
ThinkProgress // Rebekah Entralgo
- [NH's Capitol Hill Democrats blast revised Senate GOP health care bill](#)
WMUR // John DiStaso



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